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UNLEASH SENATE'S SPOOK CHAMPIONS

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Six senatorial advisers in Ronald Reagan's campaign have drafted legislation they plan to introduce this summer to unleash the CIA, FBI and the rest of the federal intelligence network to spy on Americans.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) is point man in this assault on the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Reagan can't be directly tarred for the reprehensible effort, but his association with the Wallop cabal demands his public disassociation from its members on this issue at least.

They propose, for one thing, to allow federal intelligence agencies to write their own rulebook-only in consultation with Congress-on opening the mail of, electronically surveilling and burglarizing Americans as well as foreigners they judge to be appropriate targets, all without court warrant.

It is astonishing that the motivations represented in this proposed legislation still survive in a Congress whose own investigators so recently exposed the "rogue elephants" in our spy agencies who trampled the rights of Americans in civic, church and community groups innocent of any crime beyond exercising their freedom of expression.

The documented list of victims is long, literally in the hundreds, but think only of the FBI's cruel scandal-mongering against the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and actress Jean Seberg.

The CIA says it neither seeks nor wants the proposed new powers. The Justice Department, mother agency of the FBI, says such a legislated charter "would weaken the intelligence community by casting its practices into further legal doubt."

Wallop and his cohorts aim to protect the country from totalitarianism with totalitarianism's own tools, and for that they deserve only scorn.

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COMMENT: The above is an excerpt from a special roundup of editorials from the Field News Services source publications released on the NEW YORK TIMES Wire.

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